



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

From the President

I start this report with the good news that our nominations for three awards this year were met with pleasing results.

The first was a Special Commendation for outstanding achievement awarded by the judges in the 2010 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAAs). The Judges recognised our Association for our outstanding achievement in the category of 'Organisations: Volunteer Run' for our nomination 'Establishment of the Country Hospital Museum'. In their press release on 16 October 2010, Museum and Gallery Services Queensland stated: "In awarding the 'Establishment of the Country Hospital Museum' a Special Commendation in this category, the judges recognised the sustained and strategic volunteer effort by the Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association in delivering this massive project. They praised the Association for addressing best practice at every stage of the project and for undertaking careful planning and research prior to implementation. The judges also commended the strength and commitment of the Association's fundraising efforts to achieve its goals". Our Archivist, Yvonne Kelley, was invited to a gala event at the Caloundra Regional Gallery to accept the award on our behalf.

The second award was a 2010 Community Heritage Grant awarded by the National Library of Australia. This \$4,000 grant will allow the employment of a specialist to undertake a significance assessment of our Collection. Yvonne accepted this award at a "Preservation and Collection Management Training Workshop" held in Canberra in November.

The third success was a "Commended" in the 2010 ABC Regional Museums Awards. There were 98 entries in the 2010 competition, of which 25 were placed in state winner or commended cate-

gories. We were pleased to be included in the leading group for the second year in a row.

It is pleasing for the Members of our Association to receive this recognition for their dedicated commitment. Such recognition indicates the value placed by others as well as ourselves on the need to preserve history not only in written or oral form, but in realistic displays.

The Museum has been open to the public on a daily basis for a few months now, and is a popular place to visit. Many people also visit on Market Days when our members are present to discuss the displays. The next such event is Australia Day. Members also attend when tours are arranged. Added to the regular school children tours are tours from the students of the Enrolled Nurse Course at TAFE College, and the senior school students from the high schools participating in the Regional Health Services District program for students interested in a career in Health Services. In all, over 800 students and teachers have participated in these tours in 2010.

If you have not made a recent visit to the Hospital Museum, I can recommend such a visit as being well worth while.

Work behind the scenes in the archive area continues with still a long way to go before all resources can be made available to the public. Nevertheless, the committee does receive requests for information usually because of the Web site, and acts on them. Volunteers are always welcome to assist, particularly with the cataloguing of the many books.

The Executive Committee has had its final meeting for 2010, and will meet again late January, but the work by members will continue.

I take this opportunity to wish all Members of the Association much happiness over the festive season and best wishes for 2011.

Norma West

Community Heritage Grant

Preservation and Collection Management Training Workshops Report

As mentioned in the President's Report, the Association has been successful in winning a Community Heritage Grant. The grants are funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the National Library of Australia, the National Archives of Australia, the National Film and Sound Archives of Australia and the National Museum of Australia. The purpose of this grant is to enable an independent person to review our Collection and to identify items and parts of the Collection which are of national significance. In addition to the \$4,000 direct funding, the grant included an all expenses paid three day Preservation and Collection Management Workshop in Canberra. Yvonne Kelley as our Archivist attended this workshop. Here is an edited copy of her report to the Management Committee.

One hundred and ninety-three applications were received for this year's grant program, 70 grants were awarded and 35 were to first time recipients. On day one participants were welcomed to the National Library by the Acting Director General and the coordinators of the program. The attendees were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and their organisations before the first lecture "Assessing the Significance of Cultural Heritage" and the second "Preservation."

After lunch, Yvonne attended the sound preservation workshop. The prime aim of sound preservation is to preserve the sound on the recording and not necessarily the medium that carries the sound. Key points were:

- New and existing recordings should be created in or transferred to digital form.
- Create the highest quality digital audio copies possible, given technological and cost constraints.

(Note that this is relevant to our Oral History Collection which is still under development).

After this participants were taken back to their accommodation and then returned to the National Library for the formal presentation of certificates by the Under Secretary of the De-

partment of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

On day two Yvonne visited the Film and Sound Archives in the morning. The NFSFA collects, preserves, interprets and shares Australia's historic and contemporary screen and sound heritage. The NFSFA holds more than 1.4 million works - everything from the earliest black and white films and phonographic audio recordings to today's digital technology. They have a cinema and each week have interesting film showings for the public. Yvonne was given a paper on how to preserve glass slides and had an extensive tour of the processing laboratories.

Yvonne attended the National Archives in the afternoon for Managing Collections for Small Archives. This session covered the essential principles of provenance, original order and archival storage. Some points of interest were:

- When scanning photos jpeg can lose information and the TIF format is to be preferred for master copies.
- CD's are more stable than DVD's and write once CD's are best, rewrite CD's are prone to failure.
- Pre 1990 papers contained acid and have a life of about 100 years.

The director of preservation briefly summarised the findings of a research project that investigated the potential of using shipping containers for storage – which we are currently doing at the Heritage Village.

In the early morning of Day 3, Yvonne chose a tour of the Archive Repository looking at the vast array of storage material and how material is stored in temperature controlled high security rooms. Attendees were shown the first Australian Patent Record Book. Back at the National Library, Yvonne attended an introduction to "Trove" an online search engine developed by the National Library. At the click of a button you can access a large and unrivalled repository of Australian material, including early newspapers at www.trove.nla.gov.au.

The closing session was a talk on Publicity and Media. A sample media release format was given for use in promoting our projects. There was a session outlining what is required for completing the Community Heritage Grants

program and an opportunity to ask questions.

The Association has 12 months to complete the Significance Assessment of our Collection with a progress report due in May. However if we wish to apply for a grant next year for a preservation assessment which is the next step, the grant will need to be acquitted by May 2011.

Yvonne spent two hours in the National Library following the close of the workshops and viewed The Dunera Boys Exhibition and looking at photographs of Rockhampton.

Yvonne Kelley edited by Errol Payne

More about Trove

In her report above, Yvonne Kelley mentions Trove, an amazing resource which is being provided for all Australian researchers. One important aspect of Trove is a project to provide access to major Australian newspapers on line. While the Longreach Leader is included (recently), the Morning Bulletin is yet to come. However, early in the 20th Century many important Rockhampton events were recorded in The Brisbane Courier. For example, we know that the Rockhampton Hospitals Board was constituted in 1925. What was the Brisbane Courier reporting?

For those of you who have not yet used Trove, here is a basic introduction. In your internet browser, log on to Trove at:

<http://trove.nla.gov.au>. Now click on "Digitised newspapers" halfway down the page. On the next page, click on "Advanced search". For this example do the following:

In "All of these words" type Board; In "Exact phrase" type Rockhampton Hospital; In "Publication date" choose 1/01/1925 to 31/12/1925; Search "Newspaper title and location" and tick the box for The Brisbane Courier; In "Article category" tick Article. Now click Search.

When I ran this it came up with 9 entries. Take a look at the article published on 25 September 1925 p. 14. You now see the article as it appeared in the newspaper with electronically translated text on the left of the page. While electronic translation (optical character recognition or ocr) works well on clear modern fonts, it obviously has trouble interpreting old newspapers.

However, an "army" (over 9000 at present) volunteers is helping to correct these articles. For example, look at the article published on November 9th. I have corrected the electronic

text for this article.

Some members may be interested to participate in a local group of "Treasure Trovers" which meets regularly at the Rockhampton Library to work on the correction job in an enjoyable social get-together. The convenor of this group is Dr Dannielle Orr who is the Heritage Collections Officer. For information, email Dannielle at: Dannielle.Orr@rrc.qld.gov.au or phone Library Administration on 4936 8084.

By the way, for those without internet access, the text of the September 1925 article is:

"The Rockhampton Hospitals' District has been constituted by Order in Council. The area will embrace the city of Rockhampton, the shires of Broomsound, Duaringa, Fitzroy and Livingstone, and the board, when elected, will control the Rockhampton Hospital, the Children's Hospital, Rockhampton, the Women's Hospital Rockhampton, and the Yeppoon Hospital. The first election of the Hospitals' Board will take place on Saturday November 7. Nominations for election to the board will close on Wednesday October 14."

Next Market Day

The next big Market Day at the Heritage Village is on Australia Day, Wednesday 26 January 2011. While we always have lots of visitors, we would particularly like to see our members come along for a chat and an update.

Association Membership

The Association welcomes your support for our activities. The Association operates on a normal financial year, so that subscriptions are now due for the 2009/2010 year..

If you wish to join the Association, please contact the secretary, Errol Payne, by phone on 4922 3314, by email at:

secretary@achha.org.au or post payments to ACHHA Inc, Box 4035, Rockhampton Qld 4700. Of course any member of our management committee outlined on the final page will be pleased to assist you to join.

Membership Fees

Annual		
	Individual	\$20.00
	Couple	\$30.00
Life		
	Individual	\$200.00
	Couple	\$300.00

Please make cheques payable to: Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association Inc.

From the Archives - Alma Crudgington

The Crudgington family is an example of a number of Central Queensland families in the early 20th Century from which a number of daughters chose nursing as their profession. Albert Crudgington married Elizabeth Browning in 1891.¹ The couple had eight children of whom four became nurses, training at the Rockhampton Hospital. We have been very fortunate in that the youngest son, Albert, has donated a significant collection of memorabilia to the Association. This includes examples of lecture notes as well as many photographs and other items.

This short account will concentrate on the youngest daughter, Alma, who was born on 18 May 1912 and trained at the Rockhampton Hospital from 1932 to 1936.^{2,3} This photograph shows Alma early in her nursing career.



Taking studio photographs such as this must have been common practice at the time. Other examples may be found on our website www.achha.org.au in the People collection.

As well as other material mentioned above, Alma has left us with the following short story about her experiences during her training days from 1932 to 1936. This story, written in 1984, is reproduced here.

"It is a long time ago, fifty years in fact, and most of my memories are of a very happy time, and sometimes sad.

Our Quarters were in a very old building adjoining the so-called "Cow Paddock".

Miss Healy was our House-Mistress cum Seamstress, and she made an inspection of our rooms every second day. We had to "Bug" our beds once a week, which consisted of laying an old sheet on the floor under the wire mattress and applying a Blow

Lamp all over the mattress.

Our uniforms were blue with a starched white apron, white collar and cuffs, and black stockings and shoes.

I always remember one of my first jobs in Men's Surgical Ward, was to hose both verandahs every morning and the hose was a heavy black one and taking it from one verandah to the other, I used to hold it at arms length, so I wouldn't soil my apron. We were only allowed two a week.

Our Matron was Miss Maud Green, very tall and dignified, and very suited to the position. Her sister, Miss Gladys Green was a Sister on the Staff, and later Matron of Lady Goodwin Maternity.

Our other Sisters were, Miss Margaret Fraser (Theatre Sister), Miss Cath Collins, Miss Alma Collins, Miss Ivy Baker, Miss Beardmore and they are the only ones I can think of.

I was very pleased to hear that one of the New Wings at the Hospital has been named after Miss Ivy Baker.

I can't recall many of our Doctor's names, but Dr. Ross was Medical Superintendent, and we had two or three resident Medical Officers.

One was a lady, Dr. (Ruby) Beveridge and she was a real pet, very thin and lots of very frizzy hair. We always loved working with her, as she had a marvellous sense of humour. Another Doctor was Doctor (Reginald) Maltby, but he came towards the end of my training.

Our Isolation Ward was very small and limited, and towards the end of my training, we had two Aboriginal girls from Keppel Sands with Typhoid Fever isolated in a female ward, and they caused a slight epidemic. Several of the patients had mild attacks and a few of the Staff in the Ward, myself included, but as I said, they were mild attacks.

Attached to the Men's Medical Ward was a small area with eight beds and we called it Little Dunwich as patients would go there waiting to go to Dunwich Island to end their days. That Institution has been abolished for years, and Dunwich is just a part of Stradbroke Island.

After my General Training, I went to Lady Goodwin Hospital and I did my Midwifery Training. Then did Private Nursing for twelve months, and received £3-3-0 weekly, and thought I was really wealthy.

Then I was on the Staff at Yeppoon Hospital with Matron Dowling and Doctor Beetson (not sure if Doctor's name is exactly right).

My next trip was to Beaudesert Hospital as Midwifery Sister, and from there I enlisted in the Army at Declaration of War in 1939.

I have just spent a week in Greenslopes Hospital having a lens implant in my left eye, and I still think that trained nurses are on their own, and in no way would I change my life if I had to live it again."

Alma Crudgington"

As stated in her story, Alma joined the Australian Army Nursing Service early in World War 2.³ She served overseas in the Middle East, Palestine, Egypt and New Guinea.² This photograph from the ACHHA Collection shows her in her Army Uniform.



We also have this photograph on the Australian War Memorial website which shows Alma marrying Fergus McDougall while in New Guinea.⁴



The caption with the photograph reads "1943-05-24 New Guinea. Second Army wedding to be celebrated in New Guinea. Cutting the cake is the Bride, formerly Sister Alma Crudgington, of Rockhampton, Queensland, assisted by the Bridegroom, Sgt Fergus McDougall, of Mills Terrace, North Adelaide. Standing beside the left of the Bride is the C.O. of the Hospital, Col. A. Green, who gave the bride away, and Matron Nell Marshall".

Alma Crudgington ended her Army duties on 10 August 1943 with the rank of Captain. At the time of her discharge she had been posted to the 9 Australian General Hospital.

In her story, Alma makes reference to Dunwich Island. The Dunwich Island Asylum was established on 13 May 1865 when inmates were transferred to the Dunwich Quarantine Station from the Benevolent Ward attached to the Brisbane Hospital.⁵ The function of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum was "to provide for poor people who, because of age, accident, infirmity or otherwise were unable to care for themselves". The Asylum operated continuously until its closure on 30 September 1946 after which inmates were gradually transferred to Eventide Sandgate which was officially opened on 04 October 1946. Apparently people were transferred to Dunwich from all over Queensland. As a result, there is a large cemetery on the Island.

The "old" buildings that were used as nurses' quarters had been demolished at the old Children's Hospital and reconstructed on the Rockhampton Hospital site. This occurred after the Rockhampton Hospitals Board was formed in 1925 and closed other hospitals in favour of the main Canning and North Street site. These quarters burned down on 28 September 1945. This photograph showing the quarters is from our Collection. The photograph shows the original hospital in the rear with the Lady Goodwin Hospital and lift tower which were opened in 1930.



Alma also mentions the "cow paddock". William Ross Thomson, son of long-serving Board Secretary William Thomson and Acting Secretary himself in 1938-39, writes that the Board was persuaded to set up its own herd and milking sheds after it was found that the hospital was being cheated by a milk supplier.⁶ The cattle grazed in a paddock south of the nurses' quarters.

Three of the Sisters whom Alma mentions went on to play senior roles at the Rockhampton Hospital. They were Margaret Fraser, Alma Collins and Ivy Baker. The Ivy Baker Wing is at the North Rockhampton Nursing Home.

Stories such as the ones written by Alma Crudgington and William Ross Thomson are a valuable part of our Collection and provide an important first hand account of conditions in local hospitals in the first part of the 20th Century.

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1. Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages on-line index www.bdm.qld.gov.au.
 2. Goodman, Rupert (1985). *Queensland Nurses: Boer War to Vietnam*, Boolarong Publications, Brisbane, p. 181.
 3. World War 2 Nominal Roll. Australian Government. <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/>.
 4. Australian War Memorial <http://cas.awm.gov.au/photograph/014893>.

5. Queensland State Archives. *Dunwich and Eventide Records* <http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/downloads/BriefGuides/BG26Dunwich.pdf>
6. William Ross Thomson, Acting Secretary Rockhampton Hospitals Board 1938-39. *The Public Hospitals of Rockhampton - a story from the ACHHA Collection* written to commemorate his father's long service to the Board .

TAFE Students visit Museum

Members have been kept busy hosting a series of visits by students from schools and TAFE throughout the year. This photograph shows a group of enrolled nurse students on the steps of the Museum.



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